

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
IO-13 /074 W  
-----099590 142232Z /11

R 140915Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5811  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
USMISSION USNATO  
EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER  
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT YO  
SUBJ: COMING CHANGES IN PARTY STATUTE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THE END OF FEBRUARY THE PRESIDUM OF THE  
LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS OF YUGOSLAVIA (LCY) MET TO CONSIDER SUGGEST-  
IONS FOR CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE PARTY STATUTE. WHILE THESE  
CHANGES ARE STILL TENTATIVE WE HAVE LITTLE REASON TO SUPPOSE  
THEZ WILL NOT BE APPROVED. THE MOST DETAILED AND SPECIFIC  
SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES WAS MADE BY LCY PRESIDUM MEMBER JURE  
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BILIC. THE FOLLOWING IS BASED MOSTLY ON HIS ADDRESS TO THE  
PRESIDIUM. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING CHANGES ARE CONTEMPLATED:  
-- LCY WILL SEND DELEGATES TO OTHER SOCIAL-POLITICAL ORGANIZA-  
TIONS (THIS IDEA WAS SUGGESTED BY KARDELJ SOME MONTHS AGO).  
-- "DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM WILL BE STRENGTHENED". BILIC NOTED

THAT INTERNAL PARTY AFFAIRS WOULD BE RUN ON A "DEMOCRATIC" BASIS  
-- MEMBERS ARE FREE TO HOLD THEIR OWN VIEWS AND ARGUE THEM -- BUT  
ONCE A DECISION IS MADE THOSE PEOPLE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT  
AND FIGHT FOR THE MAJORITY DECISION.

-- BILIC ALSO INDICATED THAT "ALL ORGANIZATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN  
THE LCY BASIC ORGANIZATION AND THE OPSTINA CONFERENCE OF THE LCY"  
WOULD BE ELIMINATED. (COMMENT: THIS WOULD ELIMINATE ONE "LAYER"--  
MOSTLY FACTORY-WIDE LC ORGANIZATIONS ENCOMPASSING MORE THAN ONE  
BASIC ORGANIZATION.) HEREAFTER THE ROLE OF THE OPSTINA CONFERENCE  
IS TO BE EMPHASIZED; THE "IDEO-POLITICAL WORK" WILL BE SEPARATED  
FROM THE OPERATIONAL SO THAT THE VARIOUS BODIES OF CONSULTATION  
AND ADVICE "CANNOT MAKE DECISIONS OR CONCLUSIONS WHICH ARE  
BINDING ON THE BASIC ORGANIZATIONS".

-- THE PRESIDUM: THE "OPERATIVE" FUNCTION OF THE PRESIDUM IS  
TO BE STRENGTHENED. THE PRESIDUM WILL BE OF THE PRESIDUM AS  
AN OPERATIVE BODY. DOLANC TOLD FOREIGN NEWSMEN SEVERAL DAYS  
PREVIOUSLY THAT THE PRESIDUM WOULD CONSIST OF 15 ELECTED MEMBERS  
(2 FROM EACH REPUBLIC, ONE FROM EACH PROVINCE, AND ONE FROM THE  
ARMY) PLUS 9 EX OFFICIO MEMBERS (LCY PRESIDENT, PRESIDENTS OF THE  
REPUBLICS AND PROVINCIAL CENTRAL COMMITTEES).

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-- ROTATION OF POSITIONS: APPARENTLY THE EXISTING RULES WILL STILL PREVAIL: ALL ORGANS IN THE LC ARE EXPECTED TO CHANGE AT LEAST ONE THIRD OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP AT EACH REGULAR ELECTION. THOSE IN "POLITICAL EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS", INCLUDING THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENTS OF THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES, ARE LIMITED TO TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS. HOWEVER, "SPECIAL PROCEDURES" WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE FOR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS BEYOND TWO TERMS IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES. (COMMENT: BILIC DID NOT DEFINE THE CIRCUMSTANCES BUT ONE EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT HERE ASSURES US THAT THERE ARE PLANS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR DOLANC TO CONTINUE AS SECRETARY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. BILIC EMPHASIZED THIS POSSIBILITY BY URGING THAT THE PRESENT PRESIDUM DECIDE IMMEDIATELY ON SUCH CASES BUT SHOULD AVOID "PETRIFICATION" OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS WHICH COULD LEAD "TO DEVIATIONS WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID".)

-- BILIC ALSO MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING THE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR THOSE WHO ARE EXCLUDED FROM PARTY MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER IT APPEARS THAT THE REAL CHANGE IS TO GIVE THE FEDERAL COMMISSION ON STATUTORY QUESTIONS POWER TO REVIEW THE DECISIONS OF THE PROVINCIAL AND REPUBLICAN COMMISSIONS.

3. COMMENT: THE LCY HAS CLEARLY CHOSEN TO EMPHASIZE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY, BOTH IN ITS APPROACH TO THE CONGRESS AND IN ITS LEADERSHIP (RECENT NOMINATIONS FOR PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE REPORTED IN SEPTTEL). THE CHANGES IN THE PARTY STATUTE ARE MOSTLY MINOR; SOME MERELY BEING THE STATUTE INTO CONFORMITY WITH ACTUAL PRACTICE. STILL, THE THRUST OF THESE CHANGES IS TO EMPHASIZE DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM OVER DEMOCRACY IN DECISION-MAKING, OR AT LEAST TO LEGITIMIZE THE PARTY'S RIGHT TO DO SO IF IT SHOULD BECOME NECESSARY. JUDGING FROM THE MANY STATEMENTS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS ABOUT LCY "DEMOCRATIC MEANS OF ACTION", RESPONSIBILITY, AND RESPONSIVENESS OF PARTY MEMBERS, IT SEEMS THE LCY STILL HOPES IT CAN MAINTAIN A HIGHLY MOTIVATED "AVANT-GARDE" PARTY THROUGH EXHORTATION AND GOOD LEADERSHIP IN SPITE OF THE STEADILY INCREASING LCY MEMBERSHIP.  
WORTZEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMUNISTS, REORGANIZATIONS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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